



**LA JOLLA
UNITED METHODIST**

**Sunday, July 25, 2021
Ninth Sunday after Pentecost**



La Jolla United Methodist Church

6063 La Jolla Boulevard

La Jolla, CA 92037

(858) 454-7108

www.lajollaunitedmethodist.org

Prelude: “The Sweetest Gift” - James B. Coats

Musician: Jennifer Lai

Welcome

Opening Music: “Help Us Accept Each Other” UMH 560

Musicians: Joyce Theilacker, Lisa Corpron, Jayson Coleman, Randy Seward, Jennifer Lai

1. Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us;
teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace.
Be present, Lord, among us, and bring us to believe
we are ourselves accepted and meant to love and live.
2. Teach us, O Lord, your lessons, as in our daily life
we struggle to be human and search for hope and faith.
Teach us to care for people, for all, not just for some,
to love them as we find them, or as they may become.
3. Let your acceptance change us, so that we may be moved
in living situations to do the truth in love;
to practice your acceptance, until we know by heart
the table of forgiveness and laughter’s healing art.
4. Lord, for today’s encounters with all who are in need,
who hunger for acceptance, for righteousness and bread.
we need new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on;
renew us with your Spirit; Lord, free us, make us one!

Prayers of the People

A Pastor will begin a time of prayer and name those for whom our congregation is praying.

A time of silence will indicate when you may share one name or very short phrase to add.

Pastoral Prayer

Blessing for Children

Scripture

Matthew 18:15-20 (CEB)

“If your brother or sister sins against you, go and correct them when you are alone together. If they listen to you, then you’ve won over your brother or sister. But if they won’t listen, take with you one or two others so that every word may be established by the mouth of two or three witnesses. But if they still won’t pay attention, report it to the church. If they won’t pay attention even to the church, treat them as you would a Gentile and tax collector. I assure you that whatever you fasten on earth will be fastened in heaven. And whatever you loosen on earth will be loosened in heaven. Again I assure you that if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, then my Father who is in heaven will do it for you. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I’m there with them.”

Message: “How Do We Face Evil & Injustice?”

Response to the Word

Confession, Assurance, and Peace

Liturgist: Merciful God, help us become the people you have created us to be. We yearn to build communities of love, but it is easier to tear down than to build up. We long for the healing of the nations, but it is easier to harm than to heal. We want to bear our grief with dignity, but it is satisfying to parade our wounds for all to see. Bind up our spirits, Gracious One, that we might reconcile with those who have caused us pain. Help us cast aside the things that chain our spirits, that we might be free to care for one another and fulfill your law of love. Amen.

Pastor: Hear the words of Jesus: “Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.” As we gather to fulfill the law of love, Christ is here to make us whole. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

All: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen.

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory: “Make Me a Channel of Your Peace” TFWS 2171

Musicians: Joyce Theilacker, Lisa Corpron, Jayson Coleman, Randy Seward, Jennifer Lai

Thanksgiving and Holy Communion

Communion elements have been placed on chairs before the beginning of Worship for in-person participants, and online participants may select from your home to include bread (or similar) and juice (or similar). Please wait until directed before receiving your elements.

Closing Music: “This Is a Day of New Beginnings” UMH 383 (vs. 1-4)

Musicians: Joyce Theilacker, Lisa Corpron, Jayson Coleman, Randy Seward, Jennifer Lai

1. This is a day of new beginnings,
time to remember and move on,
time to believe what love is bringing,
laying to rest the pain that’s gone.
2. For by the life and death of Jesus,
God’s mighty Spirit, now as then,
can make for us a world of difference,
as faith and hope are born again.
3. Then let us, with the Spirit’s daring,
step from the past and leave behind
our disappointments, guilt, and grieving,
seeking new paths, and sure to find.
4. Christ is alive, and goes before us
to show and share what love can do.
This is a day of new beginnings;
our God is making all things new.

Benediction

Postlude: “God of Love and God of Power” - Joachim Neander

Musician: Jennifer Lai

Ushers: Rod Betts, Don Lincoln, Peter McCreight, Lon Showley

Audio Visual Team: Dave Flores, Emilio Valente, Cam Rhodes

LJUMC Ministry Team

Rev. Bob Rhodes, Lead Pastor; Rev. Derek Nguyen, Pastor of Spiritual Development;
Bob Wuertz, Music Ministries Director; Theresa Erb, Administrative Assistant;
Joyce Drozda, NS & Church Accountant; Emilio Valente, Information Technology Director;
Bridget Musante, NS Executive Director